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**US Army Corps
of Engineers
New England District**

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Yankee Engineer

May 2005

District command to change hands in July:

Col. Koning will pass District command flag to Col. Thalken

Col. Thomas Koning will relinquish command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, to Col. Curtis L. Thalken during a Change of Command ceremony scheduled for Friday, July 8, at 10 a.m., at historical Faneuil Hall in Boston, Mass.

Col. Thalken is a native of Nebraska. He is a graduate from the United States Military Academy, at West Point, with a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering.

He received a Masters Degree in Engineering Sciences from the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College and a Masters Degree in Strategic Studies and International Relations from the U.S. Naval War College.

His military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms and Services Staff College, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Joint Forces Staff College and the U.S. Naval War College.

Col. Thalken began his military career in 1983 as a Platoon Leader and Company Executive Officer, 642d Engineer Company (Combat Support Equip-



Photo by C.J. Allen

Col. Curtis Thalken will take command in July.

ment) and Battalion Maintenance Officer, for the Combat Support Battalion, both at Fort Devens, Massachusetts; Supply Officer (S-4) and Operations Officer (S-3) of the 34th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), Supply Officer (S-4), for the 937th Engineer Group, and Commander 55th Engineer Company (Medium Girder Bridge) all at Fort Riley, Kan. In 1993, he became an Instructor and subsequently as a Course

Director in the Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering, U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

From 1996 to 2000 his positions included, Assistant Operations Officer (S-3) and then Operations Officer (S-3) for the 130th Engineer Brigade, Hanau, Germany; Contingency Plans Officer at Headquarters USAREUR and 7th Army, and Assistant Corps Engineer, V Corps, both in Heidelberg, Germany.

Following that tour, Col. Thalken became Commander, 92nd Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), Fort Stewart, Ga., and deployed the battalion to Afghanistan and surrounding countries from November 2001 until June 2002; he then served as an Experimentation Officer, Joint Concept Development and Experimentation Directorate, Joint Forces Command in Suffolk, Va.

Col. Thalken's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (4th OLC), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (2nd OLC), National Defense Service Medal (1 BSS), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Parachutist Badge, and the Army Superior Unit Award.

Yankee Voices

Mark McInerney
Information Management



District's Founder's Day 2005 to be held June 24

The Corps of Engineers, New England District, will hold its annual Founder's Day celebration on Friday, June 24, at Castle Park, Hanscom Air Force Base.

Festivities will include an official awards ceremony, followed by a catered picnic lunch and fun activities. The cost for the lunch will be \$10 for adults and \$8 for children age 6 and under.

Lunch will include boneless spare ribs, hot dogs, hamburgers (they will also provide some veggie burgers), garden salad, potato salad, homemade baked beans, watermelon and condiments.

Those interested in attending should contact their office representative. Retirees may purchase their tickets through Ann Marie Harvie in the Public Affairs Office, 978-318-8777.

Congratulations

...to **Joan Gardner**, Chief of Technical Services, Construction /Operations Division, who has been chosen as the WE Committee's Employee of the Month for May 2005. She received the honor for her continuous support and responsiveness to the New England District field offices.

... to a **Regulatory task group** that has been chosen as the WE Committee's Team of the Month for May 2005. The office of the ASA (CW) decided to request a national data call asking Corps Districts to fill out a 116-page questionnaire on how decisions are made and gave a one month suspense.

The team put in a tremendous effort to complete the mission within the time allowed and produced a quality product. This was done while the team kept up with other work assignments.

Team members include **Mike Sheehan, Alexine Raineri, Paul Minkin, John Almeida, Alan Anacheka-Nasemann, Jay Clement, Mike Elliot, Peter Tischbein, Marty Lefebvre and Paul Sneeringer.**

Sympathy

... to **Barbara Ingalls**, Basin Assistant, Upper Connecticut River Basin, on the passing of her grandmother, **Lyla Stapleton**, April 19.

...to **Donna Vondle**, Park Ranger, Townshend Lake, on the passing of her mother, **Aline Vondle**, April 24.

...to the family of Operations retiree **John Rathburn**, who passed away April 14. Rathburn was a Korean War veteran and worked as a Dam Tender first at the Corps' Surry Flood Control Dam and in 1967 was the Project Manager at the Edward McDowell Dam in Peterborough.

...to **Bob Mirik**, Engineering/Planning Retiree, on the recent passing of his wife, **Jean.**

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District EngineerCol. Thomas L. Koning
Chief, Public AffairsLarry Rosenberg



EditorAnn Marie R. Harvie
Media Relations Officer.....Timothy J. Dugan
Public Affairs Specialist.....Sally M. Rigione
Stay-in-schooler.....Kimberly Osgerby

From the Division Engineer

Regional Commander's thoughts on the FY 2006 budget and beyond

by Brig. Gen. Merdith "Bo" Temple
North Atlantic Division Engineer



We have all heard messages about the Fiscal Year 2006 budget and beyond, some of which are more alarming than others. What should we believe? Although the future is not known with certainty, the District Commanders and I believe that we can be certain about two things: that the Global War on Terrorism could last many years and we face tight budgets with little spending discretion.

Despite this, regionally, the overall workload increased over the past five years, from just under \$2 billion to over \$2.5 billion, predominantly growing in the Military Program, while Civil Works, the Environmental missions, and Inter-agency & International Support have remained fairly constant. After the Base Realignment and Closure 2005 announcement this month, we will know more about our future workload, and this may require us to consider transferring skills or pursuing other alternatives to be successful.

One of the keys to that success, if not THE key, is being very flexible and agile, both in thought and action. During the recent Command Council, made up of the six District Commanders, the Division Commander and other senior leaders, we examined three key enablers: regional cost-saving measures, regional rates, and regional workload management.

These enablers will help the region to more easily and effectively move capability and resources across district boundaries at a lower cost to our customers.

Through our Communities of Practice (CoP), we will be able to maintain our core competencies well into the future while sharing our tremendous skills throughout the region before acquiring new resources.

The technical Communities of Practice are Planning,

Engineering, Construction, Operations and Real Estate.

While there is little question Fiscal Year 2006 (and beyond) will present several challenges (tight budgets, potentially large Military Programs, continued USACE 2012 transformation, etc.), we are postured to meet those challenges. Thanks to your leaders' hard work, North Atlantic Division will also be better able to meet our customers' needs.

The Division leadership will continue to take care of our most valuable resource—our employees, the people who make up this great Army Corps of Engineers in whom our core competencies lie. However, I would ask that you, our NAD workforce, continue to adapt to change.

Time and again, I have seen you respond to challenge, from disaster response to supporting the Global War on Terrorism to creative engineering and environmental solutions. Keep up the good work! Each District Commander is committed to keeping the workforce informed on the

'Time and again, I have seen you respond to challenge, from disaster response to supporting the Global War on Terrorism to creative engineering and environmental solutions.'

- Brig. Gen. Merdith "Bo" Temple
North Atlantic Division Engineer

Fiscal Year 2006 budget and beyond.

We are all different, but we are also part of one regional team; a larger team made up of members who support each other. Because no district has the capability to perform all required functions, we therefore need to leverage each other's strengths, while sustaining those resident in each district.

As we look to the future, I ask each of you to look for ways to do things even better. We need to do our jobs effectively and efficiently, while eliminating redundancy and adopting smarter ways of conducting day-to-day operations. Working together, I know we can all look forward with confidence to the future and make FY 2006 a successful year for the North Atlantic Division.

Essays!

Excellence in Engineering

District Engineer recognized with top SAME award

Col. Thomas Koning, New England District Engineer, has been awarded the Society of American Military Engineers' (SAME) Lt. Gen. Raymond Wheeler Medal.

Col. Koning received the honor from SAME for his exceptionally significant impact on military engineering in design, construction, administration, research and development throughout his career culminating in his execution of these in both the Southern District in Iraq and the New England District in 2004.

The Wheeler Medal, which was first presented in 1955, is named in honor of U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Raymond A. Wheeler. The medal is presented to an individual -- civilian or military member of the U.S. Army -- for outstanding contribution to military engineering.

The District Engineer received the award during the SAME National Joint Engineering Conference in Louisville, Ky.

"Tom's contributions to the Society, the community and to military engineering have been clearly demonstrated throughout his career as an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," wrote Capt. John T. Hannigan, P.E., U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.), SAME National Vice President. "His accomplishments have been numerous throughout his career and most recently excelled with his deployment to Basrah, Iraq in January 2004."

Col. Koning's exceptional skills were praised by Brig. Gen. Merdith "Bo" Temple, North Atlantic Division Engineer and the SAME Vice President in the North Atlantic Region. "As his commander, I am personally knowledgeable of Tom's long-standing contributions to the field of military engineering from his extensive experience as a leader of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District," he wrote. "As the



Col. Thomas Koning, District Engineer, when he was on assignment in Iraq.

District Commander, he clearly exceeds the criteria for this distinguished award."

According to the nomination submitted for the award, Col. Koning began in 2004 by deploying to Basrah, Iraq in January to establish the Southern District (GRS) of the newly formed Gulf Region Division. He was an instrumental part of the command team of the Gulf Region Division as they organized and executed a \$1.3 billion construction program in southern Iraq. There, he pulled together six separate forward deployed Corps sub-elements and formed the civilians into a new District.

Returning from Iraq in July, he continued command of the New England District, overseeing the planning, engineering, construction, real estate and regulatory missions in support of civil works, military and interagency customers in the six New England states.

As District Commander, Col. Koning

coordinates with senior military, congressional, federal, state and local officials.

Under his leadership, the District team generated \$6 million in revenue by analyzing the unmet needs of our federal and state customers, and by providing solutions by listening to his clients in military construction planning, combined sewer overflow and small dam removal.

He has led the District to be able to maintain a general and administrative rate of three percent lower than the Corps average and achieved over \$1.3 million in recurring savings through a systematic evaluation of individual line-item business processes for cost avoidance.

Lastly, he personally maintained the public's perception of the Corps as a neutral, honest broker during highly emotional and politically controversial debates of a proposed Wind Farm project by keeping focus on the correct application of law and regulations, coupled with a plan to be inclusive with our federal, state and local coordinating partners; interest-group stakeholders; and the public.

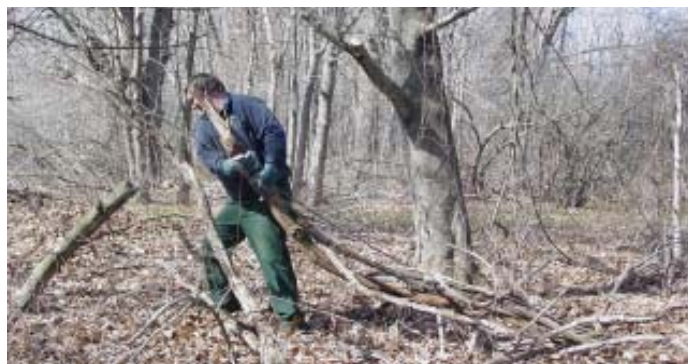
"While accomplishing the above in a superb manner, Col. Koning serves as the President of the Boston Post of the Society of American Military Engineers; the Chair of the New England-Coastal America Principals Group; U.S. Chairman of the International Joint Commission - St. Croix River Board; sits on the Board of Advisors to the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering at West Point, and sits on the Board of Trustees for the North Atlantic Division," states the nomination.



A young volunteer shows off his newly-made bird feeder.



A troop of Boy Scouts stack wood during the Earth Day event.



A volunteer clears brush to make way for a future disc golf course.

Hundreds make 'West Thompson Lake Earth Day Cleanup 2005' a success

by Michelle Dwyer
West Thompson Lake

New England District employees and volunteers celebrated Earth Day the way that it should be celebrated—taking care of the environment by participating in cleanup and maintenance projects.

Thanks to the outstanding contribution of approximately 200 volunteers, West Thompson Lake's 13th Annual Earth Day Celebration was a huge success.

Accomplishments for the day included the construction of one mile of new trail; construction of an ADA ramp at the campground registration building; clearing an area for the placement of a new disc golf hole; and the replacement of the guardrail located at the Boat Ramp parking area.

In addition to individual volunteers, a number of private organizations which regularly hold events at West Thompson Lake participated in the cleanup event. The Yankee Flyers of Connecticut, which is a model airplane club, cut and split at least three cords of wood. Several different dog-training groups built a three-sided closure for the portable toilet located on the west side of the lake.

Six Boy Scout troops also lent a hand by stacking wood for the campground, cleaning the sites in the campground, and picking up trash along the roadways and trails throughout the property. The Scouts picked up about 30 yards of trash including cans, bottles, scrap metal, plastics, and 49 tires.

When all the hard work was done for the day, volunteers and New England District Park Rangers kicked back and enjoyed a pizza and hot dog lunch.

After everyone had their fill of lunch, the Earth Day celebration concluded with a children's program. The kids went into the woods and picked pine cones to make pine cone bird feeders.

After slathering the pine cones with peanut butter and rolling them in bird seed, the children hung them up around the picnic shelter. The program was so successful, some children made enough of the bird feeders to take home for their own neighborhood birds.

New England District employees who took part in this Earth Day event were Michelle Dwyer, Cathy Dunlap, Ed Greenough, Jason Robinson, and Doug Helman from West Thompson; Tim Russell, Jamie Kordack, and Sean Metras from Buffumville Lake; and Pat Tetrault from East Brimfield.



Park Ranger Reese Morgan (center) helps out a group of visitors in this 1974 photo.

Reese Morgan retires after 36 years of federal service

by Vincent Gualtieri
Naugatuck River Basin

“He treats people like gold and is helpful to all. He has an infectious laugh and sees humor in all of us.”

Such words are consistent with the feelings of friends and co-workers about Reese Morgan, Operations Manager Naugatuck River Basin who retired from the New England District May 3 with over 36 years of federal service. A small, informal presentation to mark the occasion took place at the Basin Office April 26.

Joan Gardner and Jerry Stalder, Construction/Operations, presented Morgan with his retirement certificate, a Bunker Hill plaque and a Commander’s Award for Civilian Service. Morgan received the Commander’s Award for exemplary performance as an Operations Manager for the Naugatuck River Basin in Connecticut during the period March 23, 1969 through May 3, 2005.

“Mr. Morgan exemplified a high standard of achievement for others to emulate and respect and fostered collaboration

among his entire staff,” read the citation, which was signed by Col. Thomas Koning, District Engineer. “Mr. Morgan’s personality, ability to inspire and support his staff, demonstrated initiative and skill in devising new or improved equipment, work methods and procedures, resulted in considerable savings in manpower, time, space, materials, and improved the safety and health of staff and visitors to Corps projects.”

Morgan started his federal career in July 1965, while also attending night school. He graduated in August 1970 and received a BA in Business Administration in August 1970. He then attended Steven S. Austin College in Texas and received a two year Forestry Degree. In Sept. 1972 he took the civil service exam and was hired by the Corps’ in Baltimore District as an Outdoor Recreation Planner for one and one half years during the early days of the Raytown Lake project.

Wanting to work more in the field, Morgan came to New England Division, Naugatuck River Basin to work under Basin Manager Bernie Manor at Thomaston Dam as one of five original Basin Park Rangers in the spring of 1974 along with Gary Pelton, Roger Spaulding and Mike Curran.

"Reese and I were among the very first Park Rangers hired by NED," said Curran. "Reese was a bit senior to the rest of us and helped set the tone of where the Park Ranger program was going. Much of what the public sees and experiences when they visit New England District's dams and parks are directly the result of Reese's initiative. Reese has a great work ethic and leads by example. The bottom line is New England District had a great role model for young rangers and I got a great friend."

One of Morgan's first tasks was to restore borrow areas at the recently constructed projects and to begin managing the properties for recreation and resource management. He also received a letter of appreciation from Col. John Chandler for his vital assistance during Corps of Engineers Emergency Operations following the great Blizzard of 1978.

After one year as Basin Ranger, Morgan was promoted to Basin Manager when Manor left to work in the division headquarters in Waltham, Mass. Allegra Jay DiMuzio, Administrative Officer in the Naugatuck River area office enjoyed working with Morgan. "Reese is a gem to have as your boss," she said. "He is firm but also has patience."

Other significant career accomplishments Morgan left on the "Naugy" include implementation of the Ranger Program, forest fish and wildlife plans and the sound implementation of those with timber sales, multiple use forest management roads and trail systems, developed day use parks, and a general upscale of maintenance at all the projects and structures which serve as a role model to the public as a shining example of good management.

Most importantly, Morgan has left a legacy to New England in developing fine people. A few examples are Operations Managers Robert Hanacek, Joseph Faloretti and Park Managers Keith Beecher, Mark Wilmes, and Christopher Way who had early careers in the Naugatuck River Basin and were mentored by Morgan as Park Rangers. All of these successful examples of Morgan's mentoring are fondly known as "Reese's Pieces."

"Reese gave me my first career job with the Corps and taught me the leadership skills I needed to become a manager," said Hanacek, who served with the Gulf Region South, Tallil, Iraq. "He is still my coach, mentor and friend. Reese stays engaged in what's going on, he listens to you, supports and respects you, then keeps you on course. He helped define what a Corps park ranger should be early in our ranger program for the thousands that would follow over the next 30 years. Reese is responsible for getting me where I am today."

"Reese is the kind of manager you always wanted to have," said Faloretti. "He assumes you know your job and lets you do it. Everything I learned and did, and where I am in the Corps of Engineers today is because of Reese. He has a great



Reese Morgan with his Naugatuck River Basin co-workers.

sense of humor and is an excellent mentor."

Wilmes agreed with the sentiments of Morgan's other students. "If I have a question on policy or procedure I know Reese will have the answer," he said. "He has been a great friend, mentor and supervisor. I have the greatest admiration for Reese and will have lasting memories of my time working for Reese in the Naugatuck River Basin. Thank you Reese for all that you did for me."

'Mr. Morgan exemplified a high standard of achievement for others to emulate and respect; and fostered collaboration among his entire staff.'

- Citation, Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Way did not stray far from Morgan or his teachings. "Being right around the corner from Reese's office, Hop Brook Lake personnel had close contact with Reese," he said. "He was always a pleasure to speak to and work with, and is a very light-hearted, supportive, and knowledgeable individual. Some of my fondest memories I'll have of him include how he would come over to the office and jibber-jabber on how Corps policies developed, the history of anything, current events, his family genealogy, etc., as he raided whatever snacks he could find to munch on – especially peanuts."

"I've always been glad to see Reese, after all he is the one who hired me on as a permanent ranger back in 1987, something I'll always be thankful for. And he is always happy to see me, too!" Beecher noted.

Morgan plans to keep busy during his retirement by continuing his love of genealogy, going on a future Alaskan cruise with his wife Cheryl and friends, and doing lots of yard work.

Moving on

New England District Transportation Officer hangs up car keys with over 35 years of service

Good friends, good food, cold beer and family – these are only some of the simple, but very important things in life that Bruce Zawacki, Logistics, enjoys.

Over 100 friends, family, and co-workers joined Zawacki at the Hanscom Air Force Base Minuteman Club April 27 to enjoy some of those simple things during his retirement celebration. Zawacki retired with “35 years, four months and 16 days of federal service,” he said. “But who’s counting?”

The event seemed like “the good old days” of bowling banquets and golf functions, with faces both old and new enjoying Zawacki’s and each other’s company.

While attendees munched on hot and cold hors d’ervous, Col. Thomas Koning, District Engineer, praised Zawacki for his service to the Corps, (all of his service was with New England, except for his military time) and his service to the country (he served in Vietnam). “His service in Logistics provided great support to the District,” he said.

Col. Koning also took the opportunity to rib Zawacki about the times when his transportation malfunctioned. “My van used to break down a lot and I enjoyed calling Bruce from the road,” he told the audience.

The District Engineer also recognized Zawacki’s family and presented him with his 35-year certificate, his certificate of retirement, and the Achievement Medal for Civilian service.

Steve Andon, Resource Management, and long-time friend said a few words. “I worked with Bruce for a long time,” he said, and then joked, “He is an outstanding Transportation Officer. Now that he’s retiring, POV’s will be made available at the front desk as of Monday.”

Andon reminded the audience that Zawacki also took on the role as building liaison when the District moved to the

new building in Concord in 1999. “He’s been taking care of the facility all this time,” said Andon. “It was a role that he never asked for, but he has done an outstanding job.”

Andon pointed to the numerous gifts on the table next to the stage which included a book of great golf courses, two Red Sox bottle jerseys, gift cards to restaurants, a chess set with shot glass pieces, scratch tickets, a vanity plate,

peanuts, Red Sox socks, and golf balls.

Zawacki thanked Andon, Andrea Pittman, Mike Russo and Barbara Ingersoll for putting his retirement party together. A man who likes to economize words, he concluded the event with a very short farewell speech -- “Bye!”

Retires who attended the retirement party were Jack Caffrey, Frank Ciccone, Bill Coleman, Ann Dogherty, Henry Gatto, Ralph Mallardo, Richard Reardon,



Photo by Brian Murphy

Bruce Zawacki greets his guests during his retirement party.



Col. Thomas Koning presents Bruce Zawacki with this Achievement Medal for Civilian Service.

Richard Semonian, William Swaine, and Jim Wong.

Family members who attended were Zawacki's wife, Debby; father, Edwin; Edwin's friend, Mary Ahern; daughter Sarah; son Eric; brother Daniel; sister-in-law, Diane; cousin, Keith Lewis and his wife, Pam; and Marc Cormier, Sarah's fiancé.

Zawacki received the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for his excellence as the Traffic Management Specialist for the New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The recognition extends over the period Feb. 15, 1973 to April 30, 2005, during which Zawacki kept the command mobile by maintaining and managing the District's fleet of vehicles.

He became the command's expert on joint travel regulations, and when called upon, to interpret policy guidance effecting others, did so in a consistent and fair manner while always safeguarding the interest of the public trust.

As a team leader on many levels he has led groups to optimize the use of District resources relative to travel, transportation, and facilities.

His duties have been met and achieved under the highest standard of performance, and in a manner which reflects great credit upon himself and the command he served.

The Zawacki's plan to enjoy retirement by traveling and making North Carolina their new home.



Bruce Zawacki takes the first piece of his retirement cake.



Col. Koning presents Bruce Zawacki his retirement certificate as his family looks on.



Zina Cassulo-Henderson, Jim Morocco, and Jim Wong enjoy the festivities and each other's company.



Photos by Brian Murphy

Raimo Liias explains to Yuri Yatsevitch the transition from geologist to handy man.

Yatsevitch joins retirement community with 37 years of service

A retirement ceremony and luncheon were held in honor of Yuri Yatsevitch, Engineering/Planning at Concord Park. The ceremony was held in the theatre and the luncheon was held in the cafeteria. Yatsevitch retired with 37 years of federal service.

Approximately 80 friends, co-workers, family members and retirees attended the event. Raimo Liias served as Master of Ceremonies. "The fact that you're all here shows that he made an impact on a lot of you," he said. "He's certainly made an impact on me, and I've only known him for three and a half years."

Rosemarie Schmidt remarked on Yatsevitch's dry wit and sense of humor. She talked about his work ethic, integrity, and dedication to the Corps. "He is a consummate professional," she said, and then

joked, "He's very unflappable and even-keeled, unless Paul, Phil and I would walk in his cube at once. But even then he was low-key and he'd just start sweating."

Schmidt recalled some funny memories about her adventures with Yatsevitch over the years. She, David Lubianez and Mark Koenig performed several songs to include the soon-to-be top 40 hit, "What's the Hurry, Yuri," which was inspired by the "O Brother" soundtrack and "USACE Team Leader Blues" which was inspired by the old blues song, "Call Me the Breeze."

Liias summarized Yatsevitch's distinguished career and talked about his kind nature towards people. "He took the time to make people feel that they are part of an organization," he said. "He is one of the most patient people that I know. He's a great listener."

Liias teased Yatsevitch, saying he was going to have to replace his geology tools with a carpenter's ham-



Mark Koenig, Rosemary Schmidt, and David Lubianez perform for the audience.

mer.

Phil Durgin sent his virtual greetings from Kabul, Afghanistan. "Sorry to have missed your retirement festivities," he said. "Wishing you all the best in your retirement phase of life. I've enjoyed working with you and for you, particularly our treks to Thomaston Dam. Since you are older than me by two weeks, it is only appropriate that you retire first."

Yatsevitch's coworkers videotaped their best wishes. Each one sent congratulations and best wishes that brought howls of laughter from the audience. "There were a lot of people on the video!" said Schmidt. "Choudary went around the office that morning and asked people to say a few words to Yuri. The spontaneity was great, and we heard from a lot of people, who might not have felt comfortable standing up and saying something."

Retiree Bill Saner quoted some ancient and not so ancient proverbs on retirement for Yatsevitch's benefit. "Just get out of there," he said. "Don't worry, be happy."

Col. Thomas Koning, District Engineer, officially retired Yatsevitch by presenting him with his retirement certificate. "We appreciate your long service to the Corps, your long service supporting our nation here and the people in New England," he said. "Heading up a team of geologists and others in the HTRW Branch under Raimo, you did super work and we appreciate what you've done."

Col. Koning also thanked Yatsevitch's wife, Mary Jane who attended, and his family for supporting him while he did his work. "When someone retires from federal service it is also a family decision and a team effort."

The District Engineer also presented Yatsevitch with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for his exemplary performance as a geologist and team leader of the geology and chemistry section of the HTRW Geotechnical Engineering Branch, Engineering/Planning Division, Concord, Mass. "Mr. Yatsevitch exemplified a high standard of achievement for



(from left) Don Wood Raimo Liias, Col. Thomas Koning, and Bill Hubbard enjoy a catered lunch at Yuri Yatsevitch's retirement.

others to emulate and respect and fostered collaboration and excellence," read Col. Koning.

Liias thanked Laurie Levesque who helped organize the luncheon, Terry Wong and Mark Vance who decorated, and Chris Scabia who videotaped the event. Retired chemists Chodary Chouday and Bill Saner attended. Chouday flew all the way from Texas to wish Yatsevitch well.

Gifts included a flowered plant for Mrs. Yatsevitch, a sign-in book, so that he can sign in and out at home, in case he misses doing so (Elaine Law helped put that together), a raincoat with the New England District emblem from the WE store, a sushi-making kit, "Three Stooges" DVDs and an Amethyst Geode. Kathy Miller and Jack Keenan helped with the cake, which read "Rock on, Yuri!" and was appropriately decorated with rock candy sugar crystals.

Yatsevitch concluded the official retirement by thanking everyone for coming.



Mary Jane Yatsevitch looks on as Col. Koning presents her husband, Yuri Yatsevitch, with his retirement certificate.



Yuri Yatsevitch cuts his retirement cake during the event.

District releases proposed Charles River cleanup plan

The Army has released the proposed plan for the preferred cleanup approach for the Charles River Operable Unit (OU) at the former Army Materials Technology Laboratory (AMTL) located in Watertown, Mass. This Proposed Plan has been prepared in accordance with federal law under CERCLA (Superfund) to present the Army's proposed decision on the cleanup approach for the Charles River OU. The proposed plan provides information to the public regarding the Army's rationale for the preferred cleanup approach and is designed to encourage and facilitate community participation in the environmental cleanup process.

This plan has been developed by the Army (as lead agency) with extensive critical review and support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP).

After careful study of the Charles River OU, the Army has determined that No Further Action is necessary to address sediments in the Charles River, adjacent to the former AMTL.

The investigations completed at the

AMTL site have shown that humans are not at risk when exposed to Charles River OU sediment under either current or future conditions. The Army recently completed an extensive sampling and analysis program designed to evaluate the potential for risks to fish, other aquatic life, and wildlife.

This program demonstrated that the potential risks to the environment contributed by the former AMTL facility are indistinguishable from the potential risks associated with exposure to the urban background conditions in the Lower Charles River Basin. Based on these findings, a consensus of No Further Action for the Charles OU was reached among the Army, USEPA and MADEP.

Although No Further Action is necessary in the Charles River, the Army may conduct additional work in the adjacent Charles River Park to ensure that unacceptable levels of contamination do not migrate into the river in the future.

Written comments on the proposed plan for the Charles River OU were accepted through June 20.

(PAO Press Release)



Citizens canoe along the Charles River.

Corps proposes restoration of fish passage at three lowest dams on Ten Mile River in East Providence

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

In response to a request by the state of Rhode Island, city of East Providence, and Save the Bay, Inc., the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District is proposing the restoration of anadromous fish passage at the three lowest dams on the Ten Mile River in East Providence, Rhode Island. The non-Federal project sponsor is the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

The proposed project consists of providing Denil fishways at the three lowest dams on the Ten Mile River: Omega Pond Dam, Hunts Mill Dam and Turner Reservoir Dam.

"These fishways will provide for upstream migration of adult blueback herring, alewife, and American shad to historic spawning areas," said Project Manager Richard Heidebrecht, of the Corps' New England District, Engineering/Planning Division.

Migrant slots would also be cut into the existing spillways at Omega Pond and Turner Reservoir to facilitate downstream migration of juveniles. A migrant slot is not required at Hunts Mill Dam as the shape and irregularities of the existing spillway provide sufficient water depth for downstream passage. As anadromous fish return to Ten Mile River they are likely to exceed available spawning grounds, so a fish trap is included at Hunts Mill Dam to relocate excess fish to other watersheds.

Each fishway would be 4-feet-wide, have a 1-vertical on 8-horizontal floor slope, and consist of three major features: entrance channel, Denil baffle sections, and exit channel. The entrance channel would be flat and located as close as possible to the base of the dam. It is designed so that the attraction jet of water exiting the fishway is stronger than any other flow vectors so that migrating fish can easily locate the entrance.

The Denil baffle section begins at the upstream end of the entrance channel.

Other alternatives considered were the No Action Alternative, Dam Removal and Other Fish Passage Alternatives.

Hunts Mill Dam is listed on the Register of National Historic Places. Coordination with the state of Rhode Island Historic Preservation Office is ongoing to ensure that the proposed project will avoid, minimize or mitigate potential adverse effects to this historical property.

The proposed project is not expected to negatively affect any Federal or State listed threatened or endangered species.

An Environmental Assessment was prepared for this restoration project. Construction impacts are expected to be minor and temporary.

Copies of the draft report and Environmental Assessment are available on the Corps website at www.nae.usace.army.mil. Click on Rhode Island and then Projects. Copies on compact disks are available from the project manager.

The Corps worked closely with the Department of Environmental Management, city of East Providence, and Save the Bay in planning the project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service assisted in the design of the fishways. To assist in properly evaluating this proposal, the Corps sought public comments until May 28.



Photo provided by Dick Heidebrecht

The Turner Dam is located on Ten Mile River.

The concrete floor becomes sloped, with baffles placed along this section every 30 inches at a 45-degree angle. A second Denil section will be required at each dam due to the height of each dam.

A turning section would be provided at the top of the first baffle section to allow the fish to rest before moving upstream again. The uppermost Denil section terminates at a level exit channel that would be cut into the existing spillway. The width of the fishway at this point remains at 4 feet. The channel would be designed to have a minimum of 2 feet of water depth at minimum pool operating levels.

"The purpose of this project is to restore anadromous fish, primarily river herring – blueback herring and alewives



Treasure hunters sign up to look for eggs.

Photos by Brian Murphy



Prizes up for grabs during the treasure hunt are displayed on the prize table.

Noontime treasure hunters yield prizes, fun

What could be more fun on a beautiful spring day than hunting for treasure? Nothing, according to the WE Committee, which decided to hold its annual Spring Egg Treasure Hunt on one of the best days of the year so far, April 20.

Members of the WE Committee hid over 55 eggs on the Concord Park grounds for participants to find during the lunchtime event. The grand prize, which was hidden in a “golden” egg, was a \$15 gift certificate to Applebee’s restaurant. Other prizes included Blockbuster gift certificates, chocolate bars, note cards, and fun items such as flip-flop drink stirrers and lobster platters.

Committee members placed a number in each egg that corresponded with a prize/no prize designation. Treasure hunters who returned with an egg that had no prize were allowed to return to the hunt for another chance.

Paula Kullberg, Regulatory, has a lucky streak—this is the second year that she found the prize winning “golden” egg.

“After looking around for awhile, I figured that the golden egg would probably be a little trickier to find than the non-golden ones, but still not impossible,” she said. “So, as I headed over towards the sloping driveway and saw the little pile of cinder blocks, I thought, ‘now there would be a good place to find the golden egg,’ and, Voila!”

It took some treasure hunters a little longer than others to return with a prize. “The first five eggs I found were losers,” said Angela Wright, Engineering/Planning. “The next one that I found was a winner and I won a Corps mug.”

Other winners this year were Yong Choe, Kevin Kotelly, Rachel Fisher, Mary Christopher, Amal Guirguis, Eric Matthews, Bruce Williams, and Ron Hurley.

Treasure hunters said that they enjoyed the event. “I thought it was fun,” said Wright. “It was a good break in the work day.”

“I always enjoy the egg hunt,” said Kullberg.



Rachel Fisher (left) and Mary Christopher decide which way to go to search for eggs.



Paula Kullberg finds the golden egg.

Saying Good-bye

First New England Public Affairs Chief remembered for professionalism, friendship

by Ann Marie R. Harvie
Public Affairs

Walter Mackie, retired Public Affairs Chief, retired "Retiree's Corner" columnist, and friend passed away April 16. Mackie served as the Corps in New England's Public Affairs Chief for 17 years before his retirement on Jan. 9, 1980 with 20 years of federal service.

"Walter was the Technical Liaison Officer for the New England Division for many years," said Larry Rosenberg, the current Chief of Public Affairs. "He called himself first a journalist (always), second the information officer. He fought the powers that be (then) to convert the information officer to a public affairs advisor to the commander because all issues and all concerns are local and could be solved with personal contact instead of a Washington bureaucracy."

According to Rosenberg, Mackie led the effort within the Corps, wrote the first plan and "lobbied" the Chief of Engineers to decentralize the Corps communications strategies.

"Common sense won over gamesmanship and a vital public affairs community was born within the Corps -- a community we share today," he said. "In 1997 Walter was honored by the Army Chief of Public Affairs for his contributions."

"You are a distinguished colleague and have contributed greatly to the Corps-wide program as well as to that of the New England Division which you have conducted so admirably," wrote Col. Richard L. Bryan, PAO Chief at Headquarters at the time of Mackie's retirement.

Although retired, Mackie could not let loose his connection with the New England District and its people. He wanted to connect the present employees to those of the past and did so in his monthly column. Legendary names such as John William Leslie and Charlie Terzian were so often mentioned in the "Retiree's

Corner," those who were hired long after their retirements felt as if they were old friends.

Tragedy seemed to follow Mackie throughout his life. His parents died of influenza when he was only three, and he outlived both of his wives (his second wife was Distinguished Civilian Gallery member Rosemarie Mackie) and his son, Francis. Despite the loss of his loved ones, Mackie kept a sunny disposition and had a great love for life. His upbeat personality and consistent professionalism won the admiration and respect of many contemporaries and subordinates, including the current editor of the Yankee Engineer, who was grateful for the talks, advice, and friendship he so cheerfully dispensed.

"He was my friend," said Rosenberg of Mackie. "That friendship was important to me."

Mackie is survived by his son Walter G. Mackie and wife Maryann, and grandchildren Scott and Cheryl, George and Linda, Walter G. and wife Jodie, and granddaughter Jessica Glowa and husband Kent, and seven great grandchildren.

His pen has been put down for the last time. His typewriter is now silent. But for those who knew and respected the great Walter Mackie, his positive influence on the Public Affairs community and the New England District will live on for years to come.



Walter Mackie, retired Chief of Public Affairs, sits at his desk in Waltham, Mass.

Town Meeting

Brig. Gen. Temple addresses New England District

North Atlantic Division Engineer Brig. Gen. Merdith "Bo" Temple held a special Town Meeting at the New England District's Concord Park headquarters, May 11 to discuss the current state of the division as well as to honor the outstanding efforts of some of the District's employees.

Brig. Gen. Temple said that in his view the people that were being recognized is really all about people taking care of people. He asked the audience to join him in a round of applause, not only for the employees receiving the awards, but for the audience itself for supporting those being honored.

The Division Engineer discussed the town meeting that he held the week before that was broadcast via streaming video. He said that it is his intent to virtually invite everyone in the division to attend his change of command in August using streaming video.

Brig. Gen. Temple modeled the new U.S. Army uniform and pointed out the new features to include Velcro pockets, new material (wash and wear), and new

camouflage colors. "This uniform has been tested by the best snipers in the U.S. Army and they said that the new pattern is the hardest to acquire in all of the environments."

Next, Brig. Gen. Temple talked about the state of the Division. Topics of discussion included the Division's role in the war against terror; Division funding; Base Realignment and Closures; planning for the future; and transforming (the 2012 concept). He asked the audience to be as flexible as possible to meeting the customers needs, both locally and regionally.

Col. Thomas Koning, District Engineer, also said a few words about challenges and successes that are currently facing the District such as manpower and workload. "You know that I have been sharing things with you about what our current analysis on the number of people we would have to shed through normal means due to a drop in workload," he said. "We have had some great successes as some employees have chosen to retire, have taken VSIP/VERAs, but what is

most important about that is the part where I've talked about how Regionalization concepts are working."

The District Engineer said that New England is getting the ability to share work and to share people. He said that several employees have volunteered to work in other Districts on short and long term assignments. "We are servicing the needs across the Corps and helping us out with our workload issues."

The colonel concluded his remarks by announcing that the town meeting will be Brig. Gen. Temple's last as he is moving to Headquarters, USACE to become the Chief of Military Programs. As a parting gift from the District, Col. Koning presented Brig. Gen. Temple with a framed aerial photo of the Cape Cod Canal taken by Park Ranger Kevin Burke.

During the awards presentation, Dave Kratz received an Army Achievement Medal and a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for his work for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Don Wood and Mike Russo received Army Achievement Medals for their work during the Hurricane Ivan recovery initiative. Wood also received a Commander's Award for civilian service for his work during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Farrell McMillan received the Commander's Award for Civilian Service and a Gulf Region Commander's coin for his efforts in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Jerry Nunziato received a Certificate of Achievement from the Gulf Region Division for his work supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Hurricane Ivan Disaster Response Water Team (Don Wood, Rachel Raposa, Dave Goodrich, Phil Morrison and Mike Keegan) received certificates of appreciation from the Memphis District for their support during the opera-



Photo by Mark McInerney

Brig. Gen. Merdith Temple, North Atlantic Division Engineer, gives an update on the state of the Division during the town meeting.

tion.

Gladys Leone, Bob Govero, Dave Berkness, and John Pribilla received letters of appreciation for their work on the Hurricane Ivan recovery effort.

Janet Brayden and Leone each received a Greater Boston Federal Executive Board Support Award for their outstanding support work for the District.

Joan Gardner was selected as the WE Committee's May Employee of the Month. She received a backpack with the District logo as well as a parking space of her choice for the entire month of May. The Regulatory task group received the WE Committee May Team of the month award. Team members include Mike Sheehan, Alexine Raineri, Paul Minkin, John Almeida, Alan Anacheka-Nasemann, Jay Clement, Mike Elliot, Peter Tischbein, Marty Lefebvre and Paul Sneeringer. Team members also received backpacks. For more information on the Employee and Team month awards, please go to page 2.

The EEO/Federal Women's Program "Take Your Daughters/Sons to Work" day team received Commander's coins for the efforts they put into this year's event. See page 18 for the story on this event. Team members are Barbara Blumeris, Jackie DiDomenico, Bobby Byrne, Meredith Cavanagh, Alex Garneau, Tricia Sumner, Sheila Harvey,



Team New England presents Col. Koning with a Corps Flag flown in Iraq in District's honor.

Julie Mackley, and Carol Charette.

Commander's coins were also given to Cavanagh, Crystal Gardner, Paula Kullberg, Phoebe Chu, Mary Ellen Iorio, and Jeannie Warnock for their participation in the 3rd annual "Celebrating Girls in Mathematics, Science, Engineering and Technology Program" at Bunker Hill Community College.

Donna Russell, Peter Hugh, and Kevin McKelvey received letters of appreciation signed by Maj. Gen. Robert Griffin for their service as EEO Counselors.

Russell, Tim Dugan, Diane Ray, Gladys Leone Brian Waz, Joanne Ellis received commander's coins for their participation in the development of the new District commander's coin.

Farrell McMillan donated a Corps of Engineers flag flown in honor of the New England District for the month of March from GRS headquarters to the New England District.

Bob Simeone received a Division Commander's coin by Brig. Gen. Temple for his tremendous work at the former Fort Devens.

District professionals talk technology to students

The New England District EEO Office accepted an invitation from the Bunker Hill Community College to participate in its "Women In Technology Conference," held April 29.

The conference focused on how to encourage minority students that have demonstrated strong math and science skills to pursue professional disciplines.

Approximately 100 students from the inner city



Photo provided by Crystal Gardner

New England District professionals participate in Bunker Hill Community College's "Women in Technology" conference.

schools of Boston attended. Six members of the District actively supported the conference which included giving a personal five-minute presentation on their educational background, their professional work, who or what influenced them and what is important academically.

The team also held a workshop entitled, "Understanding the Cape Cod Canal Using Interdisciplinary Teams."

District professionals that participated included Meredith Cavanagh, Phoebe Chu, Crystal Gardner, Mary Ellen Iorio, Paula Kullberg, and Jeannie Warnock.



Children wait for their project to turn color during chromatography segment.



Children use chromatography to make cool tee shirts.

Kids use fun science during 'Take Your Daughters and Sons To Work' event

The Federal Women's Program and Equal Employment Opportunity Office joined forces with District professionals during the annual "Take your Daughters and Sons to Work" day.

The event, which took place April 22 in the Concord Park cafeteria, attracted about 20 children of New England District employees who participated in fun science projects. In addition to the presenters, Dianna Barela, Barbara Blumeris, Scott Michalak, Julie Mackley, Bonnie Ortiz, Sean Walsh, Brian Murphy and Jackie DiDomenico were on hand to help the children with their projects.

Dianna Barela, EEO Officer, welcomed the children to the District. She then divided the children up into pairs and then had them introduce themselves to their partners and ask a series of 15 questions as an icebreaker.

After a short break, Tricia Sumner and Sheila Harvey of Safety used science as a fun way of making T-shirts. "Tricia and I did a segment on chromatography, the science of separating chemicals into their individual component," explained Harvey. We first did an experiment using filter paper and different types of water-soluble black ink. We placed a dot of three different type markers (water-soluble) onto the bottom of a piece of filter paper. We then immersed one inch of the bottom of the filter paper into water. We watched as the water column moved up the filter paper, the ink was separated into a band of different colors."



During the landfill segment, participants crushed cookies to use in their edible project.



Carol Charette explains what landfills are and how they work.

Photos by Brian Murphy



Kids take measurements and cut straws to make instruments.

Next the Safety team used different colored permanent markers and had the children draw a design on a white T-shirt. Then they applied isopropyl alcohol to the design and watched as the alcohol dispersed the marker and made a colorful design. "The kids did this at different spots on their T-shirt and then ended up with their own designer T-shirt," said Harvey.

This event was very popular with the children. "I had a lot of fun today," said Lizzy Geib. "I think my favorite thing we did today was when we designed the T-shirts. I liked that best because we got to draw whatever we wanted on it. I really enjoyed today."

After the T-shirt demonstration, Alex Garneau spoke to the group about music, waves and their different types (sound, light), and reflection. Garneau demonstrated how tubes produce music when air is blown into them. Each child had the opportunity to make a flute using different lengths of drinking straws. "I especially liked making instruments," said Nikki Husselbee. "It made me feel like Peter Pan's sister!"

After a pizza lunch, Carol Charette spoke to the group about landfills, recycling, and the environment. Each child was then encouraged to make an "edible" landfill. As Charette explained each layer of the landfill, the children were provided with edible items to represent each layer. As an example, the soil layer was made of crushed cookies, the plastic liner was a fruit roll-up, and the leachate was ice cream. "What I liked most was the candy landfill because I love sweets," said Kristen Schafer.

Following a short break, Garneau spoke about wind and sailboats. Then the children were given some basic supplies such as paper, straw, paper clips, and life savers for wheels and asked to make a puff mobile using their imaginations and different designs. Garneau and Meredith Cavanagh also made puff mobiles for demonstration purposes. After all of the students made the puff mobiles, races were held to see whose car went the farthest.



Participants try out their new flutes.

Bobby Byrne concluded the day by requesting the children write essays to Col. Thomas Koning, District Engineer, indicating which segment of the day was the most enjoyable. "I loved today," wrote Kristin Hatfield. "I did a lot of fun things like dyed T-shirts, made a flute, and ate yummy pizza for lunch. Then I made a landfill with fruit rollups, and I made a puff mobile. I had so much fun! I hope I can come again next year!"

Time ran out, but those children who were able to stay were invited to create Hoop Gliders with Garneau.

Most of the children wrote that they enjoyed their visit to the New England District and would like to make a return visit in the future.

"I had a wonderful time," wrote Livia Fonseca. "I would love to come here next year."

"I like Daddy's work," wrote Shiho Schafer. "I want to work here when I grow up!"



Boxes of pizza help fill hungry stomachs during a break from the "Take Your Daughters and Sons To Work" event.

Dredging up the past . . .



The Technical Branch of Engineering Division take a moment out of their busy work day to pose in this circa 1970 photo. How many people can you name in this photo?

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